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lations of the text are furnished in parallel columns, first, a literal rendering, and, secondly, on the basis of this rendering, a legal paraphrase, with the liberal use of legal terms in modern use. The former is the work of Dr. Peiser, the latter of Dr. Kohler; and by the combination the student is able to judge for himself—at least in many cases—whether the legal paraphrase is justifying. In order to bring this subject more clearly home to us, the legal paraphrase is repeated, arranged under the twelve main subjects treated of in the Code. In this form it impresses one as a very modern document, but in using it care must be exercised to compare each paragraph with the literal translation and to recognize, in view of the difficulties still involved in the interpretation, the limits of our present knowledge. The most valuable and certainly the most distinctive feature of Kohler's and Peiser's work is the discussion on the various paragraphs and the analysis of the principles underlying the Code. In the present volume the general subjects embodied in the Code are discussed, with valuable comparisons with actual cases occurring in the general contract literature of Babylonia and Assyria. Thousands of tablets, ranging from the oldest period of Babylonian history down to the latest, have been published, embodying all manner of cases that were brought before Babylonian and Assyrian judges, and we are now in a position to compare these cases with the actual laws that were supposed to prevail. Kohler and Peiser's work, therefore, makes a special appeal to the general student of legal institutions, and the attention of members of the Academy of Political and Social Science is directed to this feature. Two further volumes are promised—the second containing a transliteration with a philological commentary by Professor Peiser, which promises to be of great value to the student, while the third will contain a translation of selected legal texts from the days of Hammurabi, by means of which a further aid toward the interpretation of this remarkable Code will be furnished.

MORRIS JASTROW, JR.

University of Pennsylvania, March, 1906.

Hunt, William, and Poole, Reginald L., Ed by. *The Political History of England*. In twelve volumes. Vol. X: *The History of England from 1760 to 1801*. By William Hunt. Pp. xviii, 495. Price, \$2.60. New York, London and Bombay: Longmans, Green & Co., 1905.

This is the first volume to appear of a series which should constitute an important contribution to English history. For many years the principal published works in this field have been in the form of monographs on the history of relatively short periods. Lately, however, the prevailing movement toward extended co-operative work in all branches of knowledge has affected English history also. This is the most detailed, ambitious and promising of several series of histories resulting from this tendency, either actually in progress or announced. There is certainly an opportunity to gather together the scattered contributions to our fuller knowledge of English history which

have been made within the last generation, to utilize the new sources of information, to apply our more advanced standards and include our wider interests in the treatment of historical subjects. And there is quite as certainly a large body of competent and appreciative readers who are ready to welcome such work.

How well this series is likely to make proper use of the opportunities it would be unfair to judge from this single one of the twelve volumes, even though it is written by the principal editor. The name given to the series is itself, however, somewhat unpromising. The political history of a nation should no longer be treated independently of its economic, intellectual, social or ecclesiastical history. It is not only that the purely political thread is too slight a one for a nation's history, but the attempt to give anything like a logical account of national development without including these other phenomena leads necessarily to fallacy and misrepresentation. The character of this first volume justifies this fear. It is rather a history of changes in the English cabinet and parliament and of the immediate causes of them than a history of England. It is true that a chapter of twenty-two pages in the middle of the volume is devoted to "Social and Economic Progress (1760-1801)," but this is necessarily most cursory. The whole industrial revolution is described in five pages. With this exception, the book is uncompromisingly political in the narrowest sense. The masses and the classes of the people alike make up a vague, featureless background; the king, the ministers and a few public men are the only really clear figures. We are told in full detail the characteristics, political sayings and doings, the gradual acquisition or loss of political power, the political intrigues, the opinions and arguments of George III, Newcastle, Bute, the two Pitts, Fox, Burke and a few other statesmen and political or military leaders. But these certainly are not fair or adequate representatives of the whole people of England. Military movements are also described in considerable detail, the causes and course of the wars, and the party contests that took place over the terms of peace, but after all these are but single and isolated sides of the national history. They have been written of and rewritten of, while vastly more important and interesting aspects of the nation's experience still remain but inadequately described or known.

By calling attention to these limitations the reviewer does not intend to intimate that this work is not a valuable one. It is scholarly, clear and interesting. It covers the period of the close of the administration of the first Pitt and the whole of that of the second. It includes the American and the French Revolutions and the first half of the long period of war which sprung from the latter movement. It traces the rise and fall of the first modern effort for Irish independence. All these subjects are treated with vigor and independence, and the book can be read with much pleasure and profit. The author makes most frequent use of a limited body of original sources rather than of that mass of monographic literature which is referred to in the general introduction, and his work gains in freshness, though it loses in completeness thereby. The arrangement is strictly and

closely chronological, often approaching the form of actual annals. His treatment of the American conflict is somewhat narrowly English in its attitude, a fine map of America being described as a "map of the United States, illustrating the *War of the Rebellion* and the Peace of September 3, 1783." He claims that it was impossible for the British ministry and the king to yield to the demands of the colonists in 1774, although later kings and ministers have repeatedly yielded to later English colonies in just such circumstances. Indeed, Mr. Hunt does not show any real sympathy with Americans, French or Irish in their struggles with his own country, or any appreciation of their point of view. His book is as uncompromisingly English as it is political. Our criticism, however, is not of the author's statements on such questions, which, after all, must be matters of opinion; nor of the way in which the scholarly work of the book is performed in its other parts. It is rather a sense of regret that such an inadequate plan has been adopted for this important series, and that so little that is new, stimulating or broad is disclosed in this, the earliest volume to appear.

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Kirkbride, F. B., and Sterrett, J. E. *The Modern Trust Company: Its Functions and Organization*. Pp. xii, 309. Price, \$2.50. New York: Macmillan Company, 1905.

Few books which have been published within the past year have attracted such widespread and appreciative attention from the business world as "The Modern Trust Company." The new sort of corporation, which has become such a prominent factor in the financial world in the last few years, has been given but little study. The authors of this volume had, therefore, to cover practically the entire field. An idea of the thorough manner in which they exploited it can be gained from a simple enumeration of the chapter headings.

After outlining in the introduction the functions and rapid growth in the business of the trust company, the authors proceed to describe in detail the steps which must be taken in organizing these institutions. After presenting the general outlines of the law governing this class of corporations in the various states, the usual provisions of by-laws governing meetings of stockholders and of the board of directors are given. The third chapter, devoted to the consideration of qualifications, duties and responsibilities of officers, is one of the best in the book. The conclusions upon this subject are applicable not only to the trust company, but practically every other form of corporation. The authors present in a simple matter-of-fact manner the ideal type of man for each position, and, what is perhaps of more practical value, point out the pitfalls into which many corporations have fallen through selecting men without regard to the requirements of the position.

From this point on the book becomes much more technical, and the use